

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 958

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ET SF

SUBJ: KIFLE PRESS CONFERENCE--NAMIBIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 10323 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING SEPT. 15 PRESS CONFERENCE, FOMIN KIFLE
SUPPORTS STANDARD AFRICAN POSITIONS ON NAMIBIA WHILE
DOWNPLAYING SPECTRE OF COMMUNISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE
WAFFLED ON SECRETARY'S MISSION, BUT OPINED THAT INsofar
AS USG NOT COMMITTED TO CARRY OUT REQUIRED MEASURES TO
FORCE CHANGES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, SECRETARY'S TRIP WOULD
BE UNPRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. KIFLE'S STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA CAREFULLY WORDED TO
AVOID EXPRESSING EXPLICIT ETHIOPIAN POSITION. HE NOTED
THAT INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA WAS FIRST PRIORITY AND THAT
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NAMBIANS HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT INDEPENDENCE WOULD

ONLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH ARMED STRUGGLE. OAU HAD ENDORSED THIS CHOICE, AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA RECOGNIZED THE URGENT NEED TO PROVIDE MILITARY AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA AS REPRESENTED BY SWAPO. KIFLE THEN TOOK BACKHAND SWIPE AT US BY NOTING THAT SOME DETRACTORS OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE (CREAD USG), SPECIALLY AFTER THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA, WERE CREATING THE SPECTRE OF A SOUTHERN MARCH OF SOCIALISM-COMMUNISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. PEOPLE OF AFRICA WERE FAMILAIR WITH THIS FORM OF ANTI-INDEPENDENCE PROPAGANDA, AND WHATEVER POLITICAL SYSTEM NAMIBIA WISHED TO ADOPT WAS ITS OWN INTERNAL AFFAIR. NEITHER THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA OR ZIMBABWE COULD CONDITION THEIR INDEPENDENCE ON THE ADOPTION OF ONE POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

2. ON SECRETARY'S MISSION, KIFLE NOTED THAT AFRICAN STATES HAVE ASKED PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC PARTNERS OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR SOME TIME TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO FORCE A CHANGE IN THE INTERNAL SYSTEM OF SOUTH AFRICA. UP TO NOW, NONE OF THE WESTERN-COUNTRIES HAVE HEEDDED THE CALL OF THE UN TO IMPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS OR TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC OR OTHER LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. KISSINGER MISSION COULD BE NOW DESCRIBED AS BEING IN KEEPING WITH THE REQUEST OF THE UN AND THE OAU TO BRING ABOUT PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA. IN SO FAR AS THE US IS NOT DEPLOYED FOR SUCH AN EFFORT AND IN SO FAR AS THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE US HAS CONTEMPLATED COOPERATION WITH THE UN AND OAU IN THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS, HE DID NOT FEEL THAT THIS EFFORT COULD BE PRODUCTIVE.

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